

# Eglé Associates

*A Professional Government Relations Consulting Company*

June 1, 2009

St. Charles Parish Council  
Attention: Accounts Payable  
P.O. Box 302  
Hahnville, LA 70057

## Invoice # SCP-04

Retainer for activities in May 2009, Washington DC representative consulting services	\$8,333.00
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### **Business Expenses –**

L.D.Telephone/cellular/fax/conf calls	\$150.00
Airline travel BWI/N.O	
Parking/tolls/taxi	28.00
Car rental	
Gas - car rental	
Business and travel meals	<u>52.00</u>

<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b><u>\$230.00</u></b>
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**Total Due    \$ 8,563.00**

Thank you.

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## Summary of Activities – May 2008

See message (copied below) to PP and council on 5/23/09 regarding meetings with Jason Matthews and Tanner Johnson in Sen. Landrieu's office.

I had a lengthy meeting with Tanner Johnson in Senator Landrieu's office today and discussed SCP Levee Protection and Drainage and funding. We discussed SELA and the potential/feasibility of amending the law to include SCP. I also had lunch with Jason Matthews, Landrieu former chief of staff, last Monday and picked his brain about the topic. As I understand it, SELA was authorized to aid and assist urban areas with flood/drainage, geared primarily for New Orleans. From what I understand, it was not intended for "Hurricane Protection", but intended to handle/assist/prevent urban flooding. Jefferson became a part of it because of its proximity to one of the outfall canals (17<sup>th</sup> Street, I believe) which is the border in one section. I know this isn't exact and more research is required, but it was sufficient for this discussion.

Anyway, there are competing ideas on how to solve the New Orleans flooding issues that the corps and citizenry are trying to sort out, which I won't get into now, but I am told that it's a mess. All of this to say, does SCP really want to become a part of that? Perhaps there may be a way to become part of SELA and have your own portion of funds, but as I said more research is required. There may be a brighter side and I will keep seeing what I can learn. And also, the meeting was with Landrieu staff because she is the senior member and on appropriation committee. Certainly as we move down the road on this, we will engage every member of the delegation with jurisdiction in SCP.

But here is the crux of what came out of the meeting, what Tanner defined as how Senator Landrieu could best help the Parish establish its long term goals and get significant funding for Hurricane protection. I know some of this is already being done, but I will just lay out what was said from my notes.

What projects does SCP have going on now? What does SCP think they need? How does that match up to what the Corps thinks they need? We need to work hard before the next WRDA bill with plans and justification for a major project that we can get authorized that will be part of a comprehensive hurricane protection and drainage plan for the parish. The Corps works on a Cost Benefit Analysis for justification which is mandated by OMB (office of Management and Budget). There may be a low CBA now (because of low population in some areas needing protection), but there are planning groups that do long term growth plans that can weigh into the equation. There is a non profit company in Baton Rouge called the Baton Rouge Foundation with a subsidiary called CPEX that gives parishes planning grants to do long term growth plans and they can provide technical assistance to parishes to help them understand the economics of development/growth projections, I am told. You may know of them, it is the first I hear of them. Check them out on the Web. This sort of back up research can support justification to engage the Corps on a very technical level.

Like I said, I know SCP has some of this going now, but perhaps I could set up meetings in DC to discuss this and PP, council committee chairperson on the issue and public works staff and perhaps your consulting engineer could come up and get a handle on how best to structure

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hurricane protection and drainage long term. That way we would be working toward an ultimate goal, but building as we go. That way when asking for Federal Assistance, a master plan can be pointed to and the ask will be a part of it.

I will be in Louisiana on June 4<sup>th</sup> and perhaps I could meet with administration and a few council members to discuss. Let me know.

Oh, almost forgot. The Corps DID NOT put money in their budget (2010 president's budget) for Hurricane repair reimbursement to parishes and leadership would not allow Senator Landrieu to add to supplemental appropriation bill working its way through congress now. However, Senator Landrieu is committed to getting that funding and will plus up the Corps budget during the 2010 appropriation process with clear language of who gets what, I am told.

So you are seeing that nothing gets done fast in Washington and persistence with open communication lines will carry the day. I am enjoying working on your behalf and am feeling pretty confident that we can reel in some wins this year.

Here's wishing everyone a great Memorial Day weekend, safe and fun.